

On the distinction between *Eremocossus* and *Dyspessa*, with notes on the former (Lepidoptera: Cossidae)

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Abstract: Differences between *Eremocossus* HAMPSON, [1893] 1892 and *Dyspessa* HÜBNER, [1820] 1816 are provided after these two genera had been synonymized. Furthermore a distinction of the two species of *Eremocossus* is made.

Über die Gattungsverschiedenheit von *Eremocossus* und *Dyspessa*, mit Angaben zur ersten Gattung (Lepidoptera: Cossidae)

Zusammenfassung: Die Unterschiede zwischen den Cossiden-Gattungen *Eremocossus* HAMPSON, [1893] 1892 und *Dyspessa* HÜBNER, [1820] 1816 werden herausgearbeitet, nachdem sie synonymisiert wurden. Weiterhin werden Unterschiede zwischen den beiden Arten der Gattung *Eremocossus* aufgezeigt.

Introduction

Eremocossus has been established for *Phragmataecia faeda* SWINHOE, 1884 by HAMPSON ([1893] 1892: 313–314). A second species described by HAMPSON in this genus, *proleuca*, proved to be a junior synonym of *Cossus reibellii* OBERTHÜR, 1876. The latter has been placed in a new genus of its own, *Mormogystia*, by SCHOORL (1990: 75–78). *Eremocossus senegalensis* LE CERF, 1919 has been found conspecific with *Hypopta vaulgeri* STAUDINGER, 1897 by DANIEL (1962: 5), who places *vaulgeri* with its many subspecies/forms in *Dyspessa* HÜBNER, [1820] 1816. DE FREINA & WITT (1990) synonymize *Eremocossus* and *Dyspessa*, and furthermore treat *vaulgeri* as subspecies of *Dyspessa foeda* [sic]. These authors provide a taxonomic history and a list of subspecies. SCHOORL (1990: 72–74) defines *Eremocossus* and places *faedus* and *vaulgeri* as two separate species in this genus.

There are good differences between *Eremocossus* and *Dyspessa* (see SCHOORL 1990: e.g. 92–93):

- rami of male antenna more flattened in *Dyspessa* and with hairs on proximal sides, whilst only hairs on lateral margins in *Eremocossus*;
- labial palpi two-segmented in *Dyspessa*, whilst still three-segmented in *Eremocossus*;
- patagium distinctly lower than pronotum in *Dyspessa*, whilst about as high as in *Eremocossus*;
- anepisternum more reduced in *Dyspessa* than in *Eremocossus*;
- mesepimeron very high in *Dyspessa*, whilst moderately high in *Eremocossus*.

Therefore *Eremocossus* is here sustained as a separate genus.

The author has found the following differences between the two species of *Eremocossus*:

- the rami of the male antenna longer and narrower in *faedus* than in *vaulgeri*;
- anepisternum (sternopleural region) varies from moderately low to low in *faedus*, whilst from low to very low in *vaulgeri*;
- accessory plate (thorax side view, see SCHOORL 1990: fig. 1) varies from rather wide to narrow in *faedus*, and from moderately narrow to narrow in *vaulgeri*;
- upper paraepisternal suture situated at about two-thirds length of pre-episternum II in *vaulgeri*, whilst at about half length of Pre II in *faedus*;
- Rs-M1 generally more stalked in *faedus* than in *vaulgeri*.

These differences are here considered, after a PhD-study of Cossidae, sufficient to keep the two species separate.

E. faedus is so far only known for certain from Pakistan (Karachi), whilst *vaulgeri* has a wide range from Spain and West Africa to probably Iran. It would be worthwhile to study further the genitalia of the two species included, especially of material from Iran.

For material studied see SCHOORL (1990).

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